

Contents

Forewords

- 11 From Vicenza to Astana
TIZIANO TREU and GIORGIO CRACCO
- 17 Kazakhstan: a Historical-Religious Approach
CESARE ALZATI
- 21 The Central Eurasian Steppes as a Multireligious Space in History
GIAN LUCA BONORA, NICCOLÒ PIANCIOLA and PAOLO SARTORI

Part I. The Prehistoric and Ancient Eras

- 35 The First Nomadic Steppe Tribes and Their Religion
in the Light of the Archaeological Evidence
GIAN LUCA BONORA
- 52 Shamanism and the People of the Steppes in Antiquity and the High Middle Ages
FAUSTO BOSI
- 67 The Earliest Archaeological Evidence of Christianity in Kazakhstan
CHIARA ZUANNI
- 81 COLOR PLATES

Part II. The Expansion of Islam and Buddhism

- 99 Islamization and Early Sufism in Central Eurasia
during the Pre-Mongolian Period (Eighth to Thirteenth Century)
JEAN-MARC DEOM
- 113 Islam in the Syr Darya Region from the Twelfth to the Fourteenth Century
ASHIRBEK MUMINOV
- 125 The Spread of Islam in Kazakhstan from the Fifteenth to the Eighteenth Century
MERUERT ABUSEITOVA
- 137 Lamaist Buddhism in Kazakhstan (Seventeenth to Mid Nineteenth Century)
IRINA V. YEROFYEVA
- 153 COLOR PLATES

Part III. The Tsarist and Soviet Periods

- 179 Exploration of the Kazakh Steppes and Semirech'e in Russia
from the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Century
IGOR DORFMANN-LAZAREV
- 199 The Role of the Oath in Kazakh Legal Procedure
(Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries)
ZHANAR JAMPEISSOVA
- 211 Who Can Employ Offerings to Shrines? A Steppe Mullah against Descent Groups
PAOLO SARTORI
- 222 The Empire's Suspect Agents: Cossack Old Believers
in the Kazakh Steppe, 1867–1917
KARLYGASH BIZHIGITOVA
- 237 Orthodoxy in the Kazakh Territories (1850–1943)
NICCOLÒ PIANCIOLA
- 255 Between Migration and Deportation: Protestants and Catholics
in the Kazakh Steppe (Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries)
NICCOLÒ PIANCIOLA and TAMARA P. VOLKOVA
- 273 Judaism in the Kazakh Steppes (Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries)
TAMARA P. VOLKOVA
- 283 Afterword
ANDREA GRAZIOSI
- 289 INDEX OF NAMES
- 297 INDEX OF PLACES